

This letter, similar to the one on the preceding page, is for newspapers.

To The Editor:

Readers of your news item of March _____ about the showing of a film strip "To Smoke or Not to Smoke," should be aware that this film presents only the views of those who think there is a proved link between smoking and lung cancer. However, the film strip does not point out clearly that this question is not considered solved by scientists and is still being studied by researchers.

For example, the Journal of the American Medical Association said in an editorial: "Neither the proponents nor the opponents of the smoking theory have sufficient evidence to warrant the assumption of an all-or-none authoritative position."

Also, Dr. Perrin H. Long, editor of Medical Times, has commented on "The tendency on the part of those who believe smoking, especially the use of cigarettes, is a direct factor in the causation of cancer of the lung, to gloss over or play down facts which don't agree with their opinions."

A Pittsburgh scientist, Dr. Joseph A. Perrone, recently completed a study of 1,000 cases of lung cancer. His conclusion was that "The cigarette theory just doesn't make sense." Dr. Perrone said, "If cigarette smoking causes cancer, we should be having more cancer of the tongue, larynx, back of the nose and the throat because they get the hottest impact of the tars and nicotine drawn in with the smoke," and this is not happening.

Many other authorities have published similar positions.

Should the schools be allowed to present a one-sided point of view as "education?" Shouldn't they present all the facts, including those of medical authorities who do not support the views advanced in this film strip?

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